

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action dated April 27, 2004. Claims 2, 5-9, 11 and 14-16 were pending in the application. In the Office Action, claims 2, 5, 8, 9, 11 and 14 were rejected, and claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 were objected to. In this Amendment, claims 2, 5, 11 and 14 have been amended. Claims 2, 5-9, 11 and 14-16 thus remain for consideration.

Applicants submit that claims 2, 5-9, 11 and 14-16 are in condition for allowance and request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections in light of the following remarks.

§103 Rejections

Claims 2, 5, 8, 9 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dahlman et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,222,875), further in view of Tsujimoto (U.S. Patent No. 6,075,808)

Claims 6, 7, 15 and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Applicants submit that the independent claims (claims 2, 5, 11 and 14) are patentable over Dahlman and Tsujimoto.

Applicants' invention as recited in the independent claims is directed toward a system and method for detecting information symbols transmitted according to a CDMA technique. Each of the claims recites that input data is despread according to a multiple of despreading codes to generate a multiple of parallel streams. Each one of the parallel streams is processed by a respective set of k descrambling codes. For example, claim 11 recites in pertinent part: "despreading [] an input data bitstream with [] different spreading codes ... a set of k

descrambling steps [] per despreading step [], k being an integer larger than 1 ... whereby said k descrambling steps include the use of respective ones of k scrambling codes; whereby the output of said despreading step is divided into a plurality of parallel streams and each one of said parallel streams is processed by a respective set of k descrambling codes.”

Neither Dahlman nor Tsujimoto discloses a data detection scheme wherein the output of a despreading operation is divided into a plurality of parallel streams and each one of the parallel streams is processed by a respective set of multiple descrambling codes. In particular, Applicants note that Tsujimoto’s Fig. 3 and column 5, lines 49-67 merely discloses the use of multiple spreading codes on a multiple of parallel streams and is silent as to the use of scrambling codes. Indeed, Tsujimoto states that “Quadrature-modulators 102-0-102n are provided respectively in the first to the $(n+1)$ th diversity branches and scramblers 103-0-103-n are connected to the corresponding quadrature modulators. Using $(n+1)$ different spreading codes, the scramblers 103-0-103n supply their spread spectrum component signals to the combiner 104” (emphasis supplied). (Tsujimoto column 5, lines 56-61). Accordingly, Tsujimoto does not disclose dividing the output of a despreading operation into a plurality of parallel streams and processing each one of the parallel streams according to a respective set of multiple descrambling codes.

Since neither Dahlman nor Tsujimoto discloses dividing the output of a despreading operation into a plurality of parallel streams and processing each one of the parallel streams according to a respective set of multiple descrambling codes, Applicants believe that

claims 2, 5, 11 and 14 are patentable over Dahlman and Tsujimoto - taken either alone or in combination - on at least this basis.

Claims 6 and 7 depend on claim 5. Since claim 5 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 6 and 7 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 5.

Claims 8 and 9 depend on claim 2. Since claim 2 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 8 and 9 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 2.

Claims 15 and 16 depend on claim 14. Since claim 14 is believed to be patentable over the cited references, claims 15 and 16 are believed to be patentable over the cited references on the basis of their dependency on claim 14.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims now pending in the application are in condition for allowance, which action is earnestly solicited.

It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, are patentably distinct over the prior art cited by the Examiner, and that these claims were in full compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§101, 102, 103 or 112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

Statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references represent the present opinions of the Applicants' undersigned attorney and, in the event that the Examiner disagrees with any such opinions, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the respective reference providing the basis for a contrary view.

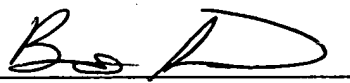
If any issues remain, or if the Examiner has any further suggestions, he/she is invited to call the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

The Examiner is hereby authorized to charge any insufficient fees or credit any overpayment associated with the above-identified application to Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

The Examiner's consideration of this matter is gratefully acknowledged.

Respectfully submitted,

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